



Report to the Auburn City Council

Action Item

Agenda Item No. 7

City Manager's Approval

To: Mayor and City Council Members
From: Mike Holmes, Councilmember
Prepared by: Amy M. Lind, Asst. City Clerk
Date: July 11, 2011
Subject: Support for Auburn State Recreation Area

The Issue

Shall the Council approve a cover letter and resolution of support to be sent to the Honorable Ken Salazar, Secretary of the Interior?

Conclusion and Recommendation

By **RESOLUTION**, support Bureau of Reclamation's use of Department of the Interior Wildland Fire Management Funds.

Background

This letter and resolution requests the Secretary of the Interior office take administrative action to enable the Bureau of Reclamation to utilize the Wildland Fire Management Fund.

DRAFT

11 July 2011

Honorable Ken Salazar
Secretary of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Advance copy by e-mail

Dear Mr. Secretary,

I am enclosing a resolution unanimously passed by the Auburn City Council on July 11, 2011, requesting your office take administrative action to enable the Bureau of Reclamation to utilize the Wildland Fire Management Fund available to your department.

For more than thirty years the Bureau's Auburn-Folsom South Unit has contracted with the California Department of Parks and Recreation to operate the Auburn State Recreation Area (ASRA) in Auburn Dam Project lands. ASRA receives an estimated 1 million visitors a year to enjoy the facilities in the American River canyon. Communities in Placer and El Dorado Counties on the rim of the canyon face a continued threat of catastrophic wildland fires which could result in loss of life and significant negative economic impact.

We understand the Wildland Fire Management Fund has been authorized for use by other agencies in the Department of the Interior, but not the Bureau of Reclamation, which has no in-house fire fighting capability. By authorizing the Bureau to use those funds for fuels reduction and management purposes, your action will reduce the requirement of the Bureau to use vital operation and maintenance funds for that purpose.

Yours sincerely,

William Kirby, M.D.
Mayor

CC: Michael L. Connor
Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20140-0001

Representative Tom McClintock, MC
4th District, California
8700 Auburn-Folsom Road, Suite 100
Granite Bay, CA 95746

1 RESOLUTION NO. 11-
2 RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUBURN, CA
3 IN SUPPORT OF BUREAU OF RECLAMATION USE OF
4 DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT FUND
5 -----

6 THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUBURN DOES RESOLVE:

7
8 WHEREAS, the Auburn State Recreation Area (ASRA) lies primarily in federal
9 lands managed by the Bureau of Reclamation Auburn-Folsom South Unit,
10 which does not have an exclusive wildland fire fighting capability, and

11 WHEREAS, for a number of years the Bureau of Reclamation had agreements
12 with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CALFIRE) to
13 provide fuels management and fire suppression in the ASRA, however those
14 long term agreements expired several years ago due to continuing budget
15 reductions, and

16 WHEREAS, a major fire in the ASRA several years ago resulted in an invoice of
17 over \$1 million from CALFIRE which had to be paid by the Bureau out of
18 precious operations and maintenance funds, and

19 WHEREAS, had the Bureau of Reclamation been eligible to utilize the
20 Department of the Interior's Wildland Fire Management Fund these vital normal
21 operations and maintenance funds would not have been diverted, and

22 WHEREAS, authorization for the Bureau of Reclamation to utilize Wildland Fire
23 Management Fund would have the additional benefit of permitting the Bureau
24 to protect and preserve this resource as envisioned by the Secretary's recently
25 announced America's Great Outdoors initiative thereby allowing youth
26 organizations such as the California Conservation Corps (CCC) to assist in fuels
27 management in the American River canyon, the maintenance and building of
28 new trails in these public lands, and

1 WHEREAS, communities along the rim of the American River canyon in Placer
2 and El Dorado Counties face the never ending threat of a catastrophic forest
3 fire which could result in the loss of life and significant economic damage to the
4 area, and

5
6 NOW, THEREFORE, the City of Auburn does urgently appeal to the Secretary of
7 the Interior to make the Bureau of Reclamation eligible for use of the Wildland
8 Fire Management Fund as quickly as possible.

9 DATED: July 11, 2011

10
11 _____
William W. Kirby, M.D., Mayor

12 ATTEST:

13 _____
Joseph G. R. Labrie, City Clerk

14
15 I, Joseph G. R. Labrie, City Clerk of the City of Auburn, hereby certify
16 that the foregoing resolution was duly passed at a regular meeting of the City
17 Council of the City of Auburn held on the 11th day of July 2011 by the
following vote on roll call:

18 Ayes:

19 Noes:

20 Absent:

21 _____
Joseph G. R. Labrie, City Clerk